

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-19 and 21-28 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 11 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 have been amended. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 would be pending. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, claim 26 has been amended to reflect a "computer-readable" medium. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (EP 082313). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi as applied to claims 1, 10 and 18, and further in view of Marwin (US 5,280,162).

Independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 26, as amended, are directed to arrangements in which the image reading apparatus operates with power supplied from an external power supply, and the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state if any abnormality is detected even if the image reading apparatus is supplied with the power from the external power supply. Further, at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized to the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on before or after the apparatus is set to the sleep state.

For example, as the image reading apparatus operates under control of the external apparatus, if the image reading apparatus can not be operated by the external apparatus, the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state to save the energy even when sufficient power is supplied from the external power supply (e.g., power supply 35 in Fig. 1) to the image reading apparatus.

On the contrary, Takahashi shows a digital image sensing device 117, such as a digital camera, that normally operates with power supplied from the battery 109. The device 117 can connect to a printer and operate with the power supplied from the printer when the device 117 is connected to the printer. However, it should be noted that the digital image sensing device 117 does not operate under control of the printer 118, and can operate without the printer 118.

When the device 117 is supplied with power from the printer, the driving frequency of CPU is set higher and the backlight of the display device 105 is set brighter than when the device 117 is supplied with power from the battery 109 (col. 18, line 34 to col. 19, line 1).

According to Takahashi, when the printer 118 is disconnected from the device 117, the device 117 operates as long as the battery 109 can supply a sufficient power to the device 117 (note however that a digital camera which is set to a sleep state when it is not connected to a printer would be a terribly inconvenient camera.) In contrast, with respect to the claimed arrangements, the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state when the external apparatus is disconnected even though sufficient power is supplied from the external power supply.

For the Examiner's reference, the following are exemplary tables of operation states according to the claimed arrangements and Takahashi.

CLAIMED ARRANGEMENTS

| | External Battery: Connected | External Battery: Disconnected |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Interface: Normal | Normal Operation | Not Operable |
| Interface: Abnormal | Sleep State | Not Operable |

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| | Battery Level: High | Battery Level: Low |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Printer: Connected | Normal Operation | Normal Operation |
| Printer: Disconnected | Power Saving | Sleep State |

Furthermore, when any abnormality of the interface is detected and control from the external apparatus is terminated while the image reading apparatus performs an image reading operation, the read image will not be a complete image. Therefore, when the connection with the external apparatus is restored, the image reading operation need to be repeated from the top of the document to be read. For a smooth start of image reading operation, at least a part of

the image reading apparatus is moved to an initial position. Thus, Takahashi also does not disclose or suggest at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized to the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on before or after the apparatus is set to the sleep state.

Marwin (USP 5,280,162) does not remedy the above deficiencies of Takahashi.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi, Marwin and the combination thereof do not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the inventions recited in claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

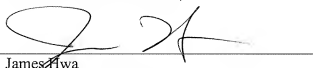
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated:

11/16/06

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